

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

Dear Mr. President:

The Office of the President's Adviser on Personnel Management is submitting for the consideration of Congress a draft bill (Attachment 1) which will make uniform health and medical services available to overseas employees of the Federal Government. This bill is submitted in accordance with the President's message of January 11, 1955 on personnel matters in which he called attention to the need for improvements in certain conditions affecting United States citizens employed overseas.

Federal employees overseas are frequently subjected to health hazards not encountered in the United States. The incidence of disease is greater and the health and sanitary conditions are generally worse. In many areas, doctors and hospitals are poor by American standards. To obtain effective and efficient service from employees, as well as to make overseas service more attractive, some agencies have taken steps to guard the health of employees and their dependents by making available to them certain health and medical services. Unfortunately, there has been little coordination or uniformity of action. As a result, there are serious inequities in the various health benefits available to different groups of employees. The proposed bill is intended to overcome this and to provide a comprehensive and consistent legislative policy applicable, to the extent feasible, to all agencies alike. The purpose of the bill is explained in greater detail in the attached Statement of Purpose and Justification (Attachment 2).

The bill provides (1) that rigid pre-departure physical examinations be given to dependents as well as employees; (2) that the Government pay medical travel for employees and their dependents; (3) that necessary immunization be provided at Government expense; (4) that the Government assume greater responsibility for providing adequate medical care and that the employees be furnished care at Government expense and that dependents also be furnished such care at a reasonable rate; (5) authorization for agencies operating medical services or facilities overseas to provide care to all Federal employees; (6) authorization for agencies to establish clinics or dispensaries where necessary; and (7) that the President will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the various agencies in providing health and medical services.

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There is also enclosed a section-by-section analysis of the proposed bill (Attachment 3).

The recommended bill is in accordance with the program of the President and has the full support of the Administration.

A similar letter is being sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Philip Young

Philip Young

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D. C.